

**TOWN OF STANTONSBURG**

DATE: July 13, 2020

Mayor Coley Rhodes called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:00pm. The following Council members were present: Jackie Grice, Walt Bynum and Ben Harper. Councilman Donnie Bass arrived at approximately 7:04 pm and Councilman Ken D. Horne arrived at approximately 7:08 pm. Also present were Town Manager Gary Davis, Deputy Clerk Patsy Godwin and Police Officer Nicholas White. Chief of Police Orlando Rosario arrived later due to computer problems. Town Clerk Tabitha Bailey was out on vacation. June Shingleton, Linda Mooring, Steve Mooring, Dooley Ezzard and Cortney Keen were also present.

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Prayer:** Mayor Rhodes led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting with prayer.

**A. Approve regular, closed and special meeting minutes for June 2020:** All Council members voted to approve all meeting minutes for June 2020.

**B. Financial Report:**

*Receipts \$293,276.99 Disbursements \$307,545.16 Difference (14,268.17)*

**C. Invoices for Payment:**

Councilman Bynum made a motion to approve the invoices for payment. All Council members voted favorably.

**D. Public Present:** Mr. Dooley Ezzard informed the Council that he had written a letter to the Council showing his appreciation for the work being done in the Town. Mr. Ezzard stated that he had gotten no response from the Town Council and felt that someone should have responded.

**E. Fire Department: N/A**

**F. Police Report:** Chief of Police Orlando Rosario presented the police report to the Town Council.

Councilman Bynum asked Chief Rosario if the cameras around Town were operational. Chief Rosario stated that they are not working at this time. After much discussion, Councilman Bynum asked Chief Rosario to obtain information on replacing the cameras and present it to the Board at the next meeting. Chief Rosario agreed to do so.

Chief Rosario informed the Council that he would like to implement a Take Home Car Policy for the Town of Stantonburg Police Officers. Police Chief Rosario stated that he has submitted a draft of this policy and an updated Police Policy and Procedures Manual to the Town attorney, Slade Rand, for his review and approval. Chief Rosario proceeded to point

out the advantages of allowing the Police Officers to drive their vehicles home. Chief Rosario requested that the Council consider approving this policy.

**G. Parks & Rec: N/A**

**H. Town Manager's Report:** Mr. Davis asked that the Council consider a resolution adopting the N.E.W. Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. After careful review, Councilman Bass made a motion to approve the resolution to adopt the N.E.W. Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. All Council members voted favorably.

Town Manager Gary Davis informed the Council that the test well on Old Stantonsburg Rd. did not test well. Mr. Davis stated that the test well only produced 15 to 25 gallons per minute. Mr. Davis informed the Board that the Town will be abandoning that sight and looking for a new site for another test well.

At this time, Town Manager Gary Davis informed the Council that he has been approached by a gentleman who is interested in renting the old hardware store next to the Town Hall. Mayor Rhodes stated that she has also been approached by an individual wanting to rent the old hardware building. Councilman Horne stated that he would definitely be willing to entertain the thought of the Town renting out the old hardware building.

At this time, Councilman Bynum stated that the Town needs to hire someone to oversee the work being done on the Seal Building and he feels Mr. Mooring would be a good fit for this job. Councilman Bynum informed the Council that Steve Mooring has done a lot of volunteer work for the Town and saved the Town thousands of dollars on the replacement shelter for the Seal Building. Councilman Bynum also informed the Council that he has spoken with Steve Mooring about taking on this job and he has agreed. Mr. Mooring is asking for 12% of the approved bids for the projects that he supervises. Councilman Bynum made a motion to hire Steve Mooring as a project manager for the Seal Building and pay him 12% of the approved bids on the projects that he supervises. Town Manager Gary Davis stated that he felt 12% was reasonable. After much discussion, Councilwoman Grice stated that she would like to go into closed session to discuss this further. All Council members agreed.

Councilman Bynum informed the Board that he spoke with Dr. Dan Whitley, Jr. and stated that Dr. Whitley is willing to rent the small lot by the park and at the cotton gin to the Town for parking. Councilman Bynum also informed the Council that Dr. Whitley had offered to rent this lot to the Town in the past to allow for parking, but no decision was made from the Board. Councilman Bynum stated that Dr. Whitley didn't mind the Town cutting the grass, but did not want cars parking in this area if the property was not leased. Councilman Horne stated that the Council decided to stop cutting the grass on this lot when Dr. Whitley put up no trespassing signs. Councilman Horne suggested having Dr. Whitley come to a Board meeting and speak directly to the Council so that they could hear from him first hand. Councilman Bynum stated that he had already shared with the Council Dr. Whitley's thoughts and concerns. Councilman Bynum informed the Council that Dr. Whitley would not be coming to the Board meeting.

**I. Appearance Committee:** June Shingleton stated that the Appearance Committee feels that the back lot of the Seal Building needs to be cleared and leveled before they can go ahead with fencing behind the building. Mrs. Shingleton also stated that the Appearance Committee thinks the best practical thing is to install an 8ft. high wooden privacy fence down the back of the Seal Building lot. She also informed the Council that the Appearance Committee would like to put a privacy wooden fence down the side of the lot, but have it shorter in height. The Appearance Committee would also like to put a shelter off the back of the Seal Building before painting or repairing the wood on the backside of the building.

Councilman Bass suggested having the Seal Building lot surveyed so that the Town can make sure it doesn't interfere with the easement behind the building. Councilman Bynum made a motion to have the Seal Building lot surveyed. All Council members voted favorably.

Councilman Bass also suggested that the Appearance Committee focus on a shelter for the backside of the Seal Building before putting money into a privacy fence to help protect the wood. The Appearance Committee agreed.

**J. Councilman Horne:** Councilman Horne stated that the soccer nets are not sitting in alignment with each other.

Councilman Horne asked if any decision has been made on whether or not to have the Crepe Myrtle Festival this year. Mayor Rhodes stated that no decision has been made yet.

**K. Councilman Bass:** Councilman Bass asked Town Manager Gary Davis if there was any way to check on the sewer line that runs under Mrs. Bardin's fence line. Councilman Bass stated that the dirt is settling under her fence and she has had to add dirt. Mr. Davis stated that the Town would look into it.

**L. Councilman Harper:** Councilman Harper informed Town Manager Gary Davis that there is a hole in the asphalt on Thompson Ave. He also stated that the water meter cover is broken on Main St. in front of Jeff Reddick's house.

**M. Councilman Bynum:** N/A

**N. Councilwoman Grice:** Councilwoman Grice asked Town Manager Gary Davis about the drainage issue behind Mr. Council's property. Mr. Davis stated that the pipe is draining. Mr. Davis also stated that the lot is not draining because the grade to the ditch is uphill.

Councilwoman Grice suggested doing something with the kids in Town to get them out of the house.

**O. Mayor:** Mayor Rhodes stated that she has spoken to Wilson County's assistant manager, Gene Scott, and he has informed her that Wilson County is trying to get a grant that will help extend Greenlight to Stantonsburg and surrounding areas.

Councilwoman Grice made a motion to go into closed session to discuss contract negotiations. All Council members present voted favorably.

Mayor Rhodes declared the meeting back into open session at approximately 9:50 pm.

Councilman Harper made a motion to have the attorney draft an agreement for Steve Mooring to be Project Manager, with percentages being paid, determined on a project by project basis, with Mr. Mooring being paid 12% of the approved bid for the first project. All Council members voted favorably.

At this time, Town Manager Gary Davis requested that the Council allow him to convert his comp time to sick when he retires. Mr. Davis stated that the Town would not pay him for this time, he would only get credit for it towards his retirement. Councilwoman Grice made the motion to allow Town Manager Gary Davis to convert his comp time to sick at his retirement. All Council members voted favorably.

Councilman Horne made a motion to retain Town Manager Gary Davis, Town Clerk Tabitha Bailey and Deputy Clerk Patsy Godwin in their positions for another year. All Council members voted favorably.

Councilwoman Grice made a motion to adjourn. All Council members voted in favor of the motion. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patsy Godwin, Deputy Clerk

Coley H. Rhodes, Mayor

